

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

July 31, 2012

World Breastfeeding Week

Today the Board of Supervisors acknowledges the benefits of breastfeeding by proclaiming the week of August 1-7, 2012 as “World Breastfeeding Week” and the month of August as “Breastfeeding Awareness Month.” Breastfeeding benefits society through lower health care costs for infants, stronger family bonds, and a decrease in production and consumer waste. Additionally, providing only human milk in the early months of a child’s life can significantly decrease their risk of many serious conditions including asthma, diabetes, and childhood obesity. Breastfeeding is a low-cost, preventive practice with far-reaching benefits for both mothers and babies.

The County of Los Angeles supports breastfeeding. To demonstrate our commitment, the Department of Health Services has achieved the globally recognized Baby-Friendly designation for all three birthing hospitals and the Department of Human Resources has adopted and implemented a County-wide Employee Lactation Accommodation Policy and Program in compliance with state and federal law.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that breastfeeding is a “public health issue and not only a lifestyle choice.” And the Surgeon General of the United

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States has proclaimed a "Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding" and for "everyone to help make breastfeeding easier."

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2012 as "World Breastfeeding Week" and the Month of August as "Breastfeeding Awareness Month";
- 2) Encourage all hospitals in Los Angeles County to achieve the Baby-Friendly designation by adopting the "10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding for Hospitals," as outlined by UNICEF/WHO and recommended by the 2011 Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding;
- 3) Encourage all County employees to communicate the important role breastfeeding plays in the health of mothers, children, and the community; and
- 4) Encourage all employers to adopt workplace lactation accommodation policies in accordance with California Labor Code §1030-3 and federal statute FLSA § 7(r) (as amended by the Affordable Care Act).

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